

REMARKS

Claims 1-36 and 41-45 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 9, 11, 13, 20, 22-25, 27, 29, and 31 are amended, claims 8, 21, and 26 are cancelled, and claims 32-36, and 41-45 are withdrawn in response to a restriction requirement. Claims 1 and 2 are allowed and claims 8 and 13 are allowable. In view of the above amendments and remarks that follow, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

On page 2 of the Office Action states a restriction requirement. In response, Applicant elects the claims of Group I (claims 1-14 and 20-31), with traverse.

On page 4 of the Office Action reject claims 3 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent 5,701,453 to Maloney et al. (hereafter Maloney), in view of U.S. Patent 6,593,949 to Chew et al. (hereafter Chew). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 3 is amended to incorporate all of the features of allowable claim 8 and claim 8 is cancelled. Accordingly, claim 3 now is patentable. Claim 14 depends from patentable claim 3, and for this reason and the additional features it recites, claim 14 also is patentable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 3 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

On page 5 of the Office Action rejects claims 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Maloney in view of U.S. Patent 6,321,228 to Crandall et al. (hereafter Crandall). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 20 is amended to incorporate all of the features of claim 21 and also all the features of allowable claim 8. Accordingly, claim 20 also is patentable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 20 and 21 is respectfully requested.

On page 7 the Office Action rejects claims 4-7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) under Maloney in view of Chew and further in view U.S. Patent 5,848,406 to Mani, et al. (hereafter Mani). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 4-7 depend from patentable claim 3. For this reason and the additional features they recite, claims 4-7 also are patentable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4-7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

On page 9 of the Office Action rejects claims 22-26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) under Maloney in view of Crandall and in further view of Mani. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 26 is cancelled and its rejection is moot. Claims 22-25 depend from patentable claim 20. For this reason and the additional features that they recite, claims 22-25 are

patentable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 22-26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

On page 11 of the Office Action rejects claims 27-31 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Maloney in view of Crandall and Mani, and further in view of U.S. Patent 4,486,857 to Heckel (hereafter Heckel). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

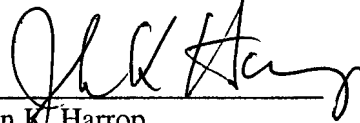
Claims 27-31 depend from patentable claim 20. For this reason and the additional features they recite, claim 27-31 are patentable. Withdrawal of rejection of claims 27-31 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Prompt examination and allowance are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desired in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Date: September 4, 2007

Respectfully submitted,



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